



# Commerce & Transportation



**What is requested?** NOAA's Commerce and Transportation Goal requests \$170.7 million in FY 2007, reflecting a net increase of +\$19.5M over the FY 2007 base level. This increase will fund improvements which directly support safe, efficient and environmentally sound intermodal transportation and provide the information that moves America.

**What are the benefits?** The U.S. economy relies upon an intermodal transportation network of ship, rail, highway, and air transport to move people, cargo and commerce to, from and across the nation. This movement is heavily dependent upon the information and services that NOAA provides – weather and ice forecasts, real-time and forecast water level conditions and obstruction surveys, navigational charts, hazardous materials response, Satellite Search and Rescue. From 1990 to 2003, the value of U.S. international merchandise trade increased an average 6% annually, from \$889 billion to about \$2 trillion (in current dollars). The U.S. Marine Transportation System (MTS) carried 78% of this trade by weight and 41% by value in 2003, more than any other transportation mode. The nation also loses at least \$4 billion annually due to economic inefficiencies resulting from weather-related air-traffic delays, and the injuries, loss of life, and property damage from surface weather-related crashes cost an average of \$42 billion annually. NOAA products help maintain the efficient flow of transportation and commerce.

**Why do we need it?** NOAA seeks to protect lives, economic investment and environmental integrity by providing critical support to the Nation's intermodal transportation network. Funding for Electronic Navigational Charts (ENCs) and for accurate currents and water level data supports the safe, efficient, and environmentally sound transport of goods in the MTS. For example, knowing exact water depths can allow a ship to load valuable extra cargo - just one inch of additional draft can increase revenues up to \$50,000 or more. Improving aviation ceiling/visibility forecasting will result in an estimated savings of \$250M a year in reduced fuel costs to U.S. airlines. NOAA has clear mandates to support water, air and surface transportation with navigational information and accurate and timely weather forecasts.

**What will we do?** The requested amount for Commerce and Transportation includes an increase of \$10.5M which will allow NOAA to collect approximately 500 additional square nautical miles of hydrographic survey data in FY 2007, and maintain its planned FY 2007 survey schedule to collect and process approximately 3000 square nautical miles of hydrographic data. Many mariners rely on outdated or incomplete charting information in navigationally significant areas and NOAA's new, highly accurate full-bottom coverage data will support safer navigation. \$1.9M will allow NOAA to build and maintain ENCs, the digital charts that mariners use for electronic navigation. NOAA will add 70 ENCs in FY 2007, for a total of 620, on the way to building complete national coverage in FY 2010. NOAA also requests an increase of \$1.8M to add two more Navigation Response Teams (NRTs) for adequate regional response to emergency incidents in U.S. waterways. The NRT survey work enabled Gulf ports to re-open quickly after the 2005 hurricanes with assurances of clear shipping channels. To provide accurate real time maritime information, NOAA requests an increase of \$0.7M for the Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS®). The increase will maintain and expand the thirteen existing PORTS® to provide critical navigation information to ship masters and pilots.

NOAA also requests \$2.0M to implement the National Vertical Datum Transformation Tool (VDatum) to resolve the problems that exist between geospatial data sets collected at different reference levels. This increase will fund the integration of data from successful demonstration projects such as Southeast Louisiana. Lastly, NOAA requests \$1.2M to continue to improve U.S. aviation safety and economic efficiencies by procuring and fielding 75 additional water vapor sensors. Water vapor information is critical to depicting weather hazards and reducing forecast errors.

For more information, contact the NOAA  
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Commerce & Transportation FY 2007 Budget Request (\$ in Millions)			
	FY07 Base	Program Change	Request
ORF	\$ 151.2	\$ 19.5	\$ 170.7
PAC	\$ 0.0	\$ 0.0	\$ 0.0
TOTAL	\$ 151.2	\$ 19.5	\$ 170.7